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**Faculty of Agricultural Sciences:**

Following a decision by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences on 26.10.2023, the Senate of the Georg-August University of Göttingen adopted the first statutes on 13.12.2023 to amend the regulations on admission requirements and on admission to Master's degree programmes in the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences; the amendments are deemed approved on the basis of a decision by the University Foundation Committee of the Georg-August University of Göttingen Foundation under Public Law dated 10.07.2019 (§ 44 section 1 sentence 2 NHG in the version published on 26.02.2007 (Nds. GVBl. p. 69), last amended by Article 7 of the Act of 23.03.2022 (Nds. GVBl. p. 218); § 41 section 1 sentence 1 NHG in conjunction with § 18 section 6 sentence 3, section 8 sentence 4 NHG and § 7 section 1 sentence 1 NHZG in the version published on 29.01.1998 (Nds. GVBl. p. 51), last amended by Article 2 of the Act of 19.11.2019 (Nds. GVBl. p. 333); § 62 section 4 sentence 1 NHG, § 60 a section 1 sentence 1 NHG in conjunction with § 18 section 6 sentence 3, section 8 sentence 3, section 14 NHG and § 7 section 2 NHZG).

**Regulations governing the qualifications for entry and admission for the joint consecutive Master's degree programme "Sustainable International Agriculture" of the University of Kassel and University of Göttingen**

***I. Scope***

**§ 1 Scope**

(1) These regulations stipulate entry and admission to the consecutive Master's degree programme in "Sustainable International Agriculture".

(2) The Universities of Kassel and Göttingen executes an autonomous procedure for determining the qualifications for entry for all university places to be filled up in the degree programme in "Sustainable International Agriculture" at the University in accordance with the following provisions.

(3) <sup>1</sup>If the number of applicants who meet the qualifications for entry exceeds the available university places, the universities shall award the places based on the results of their own

selection procedure. <sup>2</sup>If the number of applicants who meet the qualifications for entry falls short of the available places, no selection procedure shall take place.

## ***II. Authorisation for admission***

### **§ 2 Qualifications for entry**

(1) <sup>1</sup>It is a requirement for entrance to the Master's degree programme that the applicant possesses the professional competence. <sup>2</sup>Candidates shall be considered qualified if they have completed a bachelor degree programme in a relevant subject with a standard course length of at least six semesters and a scope of at least 180 ECTS credits, or an equivalent degree programme in agricultural sciences or in a closely related subject area according to section 3 at a German university or a university domiciled in one of the Bologna signatory states. <sup>3</sup>Final examinations, which have been passed in a country outside the Bologna signatory states, require the determination of equivalence to the qualifications according to sentence 2, taking into account the proposals of the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) at the secretarial office of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Federal States in the Federal Republic of Germany (KMK) for the recognition and assessment of foreign educational certificates, which are located at the URL <http://anabin.kmk.org>. <sup>4</sup>The grades of the foreign proof of academic qualification should be converted to the German grading system.

(2) <sup>1</sup>Notwithstanding section 1, authorisation shall be considered proven by applicants who have not yet completed a course of studies at the time of application, but have acquired at least 150 credits in a relevant Bachelor's degree programme in accordance with section 3, or in an equivalent degree programme. <sup>2</sup>The average grade calculated from the previous examination components is also taken into consideration in the selection procedure in place of the bachelor grade or the grade of an equivalent proof of academic qualification, irrespective of whether the result of the bachelor programme examination deviates from this.

(3) <sup>1</sup>The decision as to whether an undergraduate degree is specialised (subject relevance) in the sense of sections 1 and 2 is made by the Selection Committee. <sup>2</sup>Pre-requisite for the subject relevance of the previous course of studies is the proof of performances in agricultural sciences with a credit rating of at least 60 points whereby these must have been acquired in one or several of the following areas: plant sciences, animal sciences, resource management, natural sciences or economics and social sciences.

(4) <sup>1</sup>Applicants whose first language is not English must have sufficient knowledge of English. <sup>2</sup>Sufficient knowledge of English must be demonstrated with standardised or accredited

certificates at least at level B2 of the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). <sup>3</sup>In particular, the following serve as proof:

- a) "International English Language Testing System" (IELTS Academic): min. band 6;
- b) "Test of English as a Foreign Language, internet-based test" (TOEFL iBT): min. 80 points;
- c) "Test of English as a Foreign Language", paper-based test (TOEFL PBT): min. 550 points;
- d) "UNlcert", at least level II;
- e) other B2 certificate in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR);
- f) subject-specific certificate or lecturer's examination after a stay abroad of at least three months or university language courses in an English-speaking country corresponding to the level of the tests in letters a-e).

<sup>4</sup>As a rule, successful completion of the test may not date back more than three years prior to receipt of the application for admission to the Master's degree programme. <sup>5</sup>Proof of sufficient knowledge of English must be provided upon enrolment; proof is a prerequisite for enrolment; conditional enrolment does not take place.

(5) <sup>1</sup>The general provisions governing enrolment at the University of Kassel and at University of Göttingen shall otherwise remain unaffected. <sup>2</sup>Enrolment of applicants who are provisionally authorised for admission in accordance with section 2 is conditional upon submission of proof of successful completion of the Bachelor's course of studies or an equivalent course of studies.

<sup>3</sup>When enrolling for the winter semester, proof must be submitted by the end of 15.11. <sup>4</sup>If the dean or the dean of studies confirms, on the basis of the study periods at present, in particular, the examination components at present, that the applicant will obtain the degree at the latest by the end of the first semester of the Master course of study, the period according to sentence 3 will be extended upon enrolment for a winter semester until the end of 31.03.; the confirmation is permitted only if

- a) in terms of overall examination results, only the thesis has not yet been submitted or
- b) the thesis has already been submitted to the university and the amount of the examination components that have still not been attained does not exceed six credits.

### **III. Selection procedure**

#### **§ 3 Start of programme, application for admission, closing date**

(1) <sup>1</sup>The Master's degree programme starts in each case with the winter semester. The application for admission must be submitted via an online portal of the University of Göttingen.

<sup>2</sup>It must be received by the University of Göttingen together with the application documents required in accordance with section 2 by 15.06 (closing date) for the winter semester. <sup>3</sup>The application applies only to the award of university places for the relevant admission date. <sup>4</sup>The university is not obliged to review the details of the applicants ex officio.

(2) The application for admission must be accompanied by the following documents to be downloaded to the University's server using the online portal:

- a) the diploma or diplomas of the candidate in certified German or English translation, if the originals are not available in English or German; if a diploma is not yet available, a certificate of achievements, credits and average grade must be submitted;
- b) a personal data sheet written in English with a convincing description of the applicant's educational career;
- c) Proof of sufficient English language skills in accordance with § 2 section 4 if the native language of the applicant is not English;
- d) a declaration as to whether the applicant has successfully/unsuccessfully completed a Master degree programme in a similar discipline or has not completed it yet;
- e) a textual representation that shows the motivation of the candidate to take up this course of study and identifies their study goals,
- f) if necessary, the details of up to two university professors that should be requested by the university to send a letter of recommendation, which informs them of the candidate's academic qualifications,
- g) if necessary, other documents attesting specific study-related knowledge or subject-related achievements.

(3) <sup>1</sup>Applications that are not submitted in full, or in due form and time, shall be excluded from the further procedure. <sup>2</sup>The documents submitted shall be retained by the University.

(4) If a prospective student credibly demonstrates that they are disadvantaged compared to other applicants due to an obstacle in the selection procedure, appropriate compensation for disadvantage is to be granted by the Selection Committee upon application.

#### **§ 4 Selection committee for the Master's degree programme**

(1) For the preparation of the selection decision the Faculty of Ecological Agricultural Sciences of the University of Kassel and the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences of the University of Göttingen will form a joint selection committee for this degree programme by mutual agreement.

(2) <sup>1</sup>The selection committee is composed of two members eligible to vote, including one member each of the University of Göttingen and the University of Kassel, as well as one member of the student group of the degree programme in an advisory capacity. <sup>2</sup>At least one member will come from the professor group. <sup>3</sup>The members are appointed by mutual agreement by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Ecological Agricultural Sciences and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences. <sup>4</sup>The tenure of the members is two years, while that of the student group member is one year. <sup>5</sup>Reappointment is possible. <sup>6</sup>The selection committee has a quorum if at least two members eligible to vote are present.

(3) The tasks of the selection committee are:

- a) examination of the incoming applications for admissions for formal correctness;
- b) examination and, if necessary, assessment of the qualifications for entry;
- c) conducting interviews in accordance with § 7;
- d) decision on admission or rejection of applicants.

(4) The selection committee reports to the bodies appointing the committee on the experience gained and submits any proposals for further development of the award procedure, after conclusion of the award procedure.

#### **§ 5 Sequence of the selection procedure**

(1) A selection procedure includes the award of university places based on the specific admission date.

(2) <sup>1</sup>A decision on the applications for admission is made in a main procedure and, if required, in the procedure for subsequent admissions. <sup>2</sup>In the first step of the main procedure, university places shall first be awarded to those applicants entitled to admission who are outstandingly suitable (best quota; § 6) and then to applicants entitled to admission in accordance with a combination of a number of criteria (combination quota; § 6a).

(3) <sup>1</sup>Any persons admitted based to the selection procedure on the best quota will not be eligible to participate in the selection procedure within the combination quota. <sup>2</sup>Anyone who

has been awarded admission in the best quota or the combination quota, will not participate in a call back procedure or lottery procedure.

(4) By overbooking, the selection committee can factor in university places that may not be taken up.

(5) Any university places still available after the best quota selection shall be included in the combination quota.

(6) <sup>1</sup>The general provisions governing enrolment at the University of Kassel and at University of Göttingen shall otherwise remain unaffected. <sup>2</sup>Enrolment of applicants who are provisionally authorised for admission in accordance with § 2 section 2 is conditional upon submission of proof of successful completion of the Bachelor's course of studies or an equivalent course of studies. <sup>3</sup>When enrolling for the winter semester, proof must be submitted by the end of 15.11. <sup>4</sup>If the dean or the dean of studies confirms, on the basis of the study periods at present, in particular, the examination components at present, that the applicant will obtain the degree at the latest by the end of the first semester of the Master course of study, the period according to sentence 3 will be extended upon enrolment for a winter semester until the end of 31.03.; the confirmation is permitted only if

- a) in terms of overall examination results, only the thesis has not yet been submitted or
- b) the thesis has already been submitted to the university and the amount of the examination components that have still not been attained does not exceed six credits.

## **§ 6 Best quota**

(1) <sup>1</sup>A ranking, where a maximum of 72 points is attainable, shall be generated in accordance with the following provisions for selection based on the combination quota:

- a) according to the result of the Bachelor's grade or the grade of an equivalent degree, points are awarded to the applicant as follows:

1.0	60 points,
over 1.0 up to and including 1.1	57 points,
over 1.1 up to and including 1.2	54 points,
over 1.2 up to and including 1.3	51 points,
over 1.3 up to and including 1.4	48 points,
over 1.4 up to and including 1.5	45 points,
over 1.5 up to and including 1.6	42 points,
over 1.6 up to and including 1.7	39 points,

over 1.7 up to and including 1.8	36 points,
over 1.8 up to and including 1.9	33 points,
over 1.9 up to and including 2.0	30 points,
over 2.0 up to and including 2.1	27 points,
over 2.1 up to and including 2.2	24 points,
over 2.2 up to and including 2.3	21 points,
over 2.3 up to and including 2.4	18 points,
over 2.4 up to and including 2.5	15 points,
over 2.5 up to and including 2.6	12 points,
over 2.6 up to and including 2.7	9 points,
over 2.7 up to and including 2.8	6 points,
over 2.8 up to and including 3.0	3 points,
over 3.0 up to and including 4.0	0 points.

- b) Depending on the type and extent of the specific study-relevant knowledge or subject-specific achievements that have been proven, and taking into account any letters of recommendation that may be present, the applicant will be credited points as follows:

the applicant has:

excellent knowledge	12 points,
very good knowledge	9 points,
good knowledge	6 points,
sufficient knowledge	3 points,
limited knowledge	0 points.

<sup>2</sup>75% of university places shall be awarded according to this ranking, beginning with place 1.

<sup>3</sup>In the case of identical ranking after the generation of a ranking list, the ranking order is determined according to the result of the Bachelor's degree or an equivalent degree. <sup>4</sup>In all other cases, where there is identical ranking, lots shall be drawn to decide the outcome.

(2) <sup>1</sup>Applicants who are admitted based on best quota shall receive a letter of admission from the University of Göttingen in text form. <sup>2</sup>The notice specifies a deadline by which the applicant must declare whether he or she is going to accept the university place. <sup>3</sup>If the declaration according to sentence 2 is not available to the university at the right time and in the right form, the letter of admission shall become ineffective. <sup>4</sup>This legal consequence should be pointed out in the letter of admission.

(3) Students who have been admitted shall no longer take part in the further procedure.

### **§ 6a Combination quota**

(1) <sup>1</sup>For selection on the basis of combination quota, a ranking shall be generated in accordance with the following provisions. <sup>2</sup>25% of university places shall be awarded according to this ranking, beginning with place 1.

(2) Selection is made based on a combination of the following criteria:

- a) based on the bachelor grade or the grade of an equivalent proof of academic qualification, and
- b) based on an interview with the applicant.

(3) The selection committee screens the applications they have received according to section 4 and selects from the pre-selected applicants on the basis of the selection criteria mentioned in sections 2 and 5.

(4) <sup>1</sup>The received applications are screened to twice the number of university places to be awarded after the selection procedure for limitation of the number of participants for the interview. <sup>2</sup>These should also include applications from persons who have already participated in an earlier interview in accordance with § 7 section 5. <sup>3</sup>A ranking list will be created for this purpose according to the results of the Bachelor degree or the grade of an equivalent proof of academic qualification. In the case of identical ranking, all applicants of the highest ranking are allowed to participate.

(5) <sup>1</sup>Selection shall be made on the basis of ranking, where a maximum of 112 points is attainable. <sup>2</sup>This is generated in accordance with the following provisions:

- a) The applicant will be credited with the points acquired as part of the assessment according to § 6 section 1.
- b) Points are awarded to the applicant as follows, depending on the assessment of the degree of suitability in the interview:
  - ba) Depending on the type and scope of the particular specialist knowledge points are awarded to the applicant as follows:

The applicant has:

very good knowledge	15 points,
good knowledge	10 points,
satisfactory knowledge	5 points,
poor knowledge	0 points,



bb) Depending on the type and scope of the particular practical professional knowledge or performances outside of the university which are relevant to the studies points are awarded to the applicant as follows:

The applicant has:

very good knowledge	15 points,
good knowledge	10 points,
satisfactory knowledge	5 points,
poor knowledge	0 points,

bc) Depending on the reasons given for the motivation for the studies points are awarded to the applicant as follows:

The reasons are:

very convincing	10 points,
convincing	5 points,
not very convincing	2 points,
unconvincing	0 points,

c) The points attained under points a) and b) are added.

(6)<sup>1</sup>If there is are equal ranks after preparation of the ranking, the ranking is determined by the result of § 6 section 1, furthermore, in accordance with the result of the Bachelor degree or an equivalent degree. <sup>2</sup>In all other cases, where there is identical ranking, lots shall be drawn to decide the outcome.

## **§ 7 Interview**

(1) <sup>1</sup>The interview is intended to determine whether an applicant is suitable for the selected degree programme. <sup>2</sup>The following principles apply for carrying out the interview:

- a) The interview is carried out as a rule by no later than 10.09 at the university. The exact dates as well as the place of the interview are announced within an appropriate period before start of the interviews by the university. The university invites the candidates to the interview with sufficient prior notice. A video conference or a telephone interview is permitted for overseas applicants as well as in justified exceptional cases, provided the identity of the applicant can be determined beyond doubt. The selection committee shall determine the details of the procedure in such cases.
- b) The selection committee conducts an interview in English with every applicant for about 15 minutes. The interview can be held for up to four applicants simultaneously.

- c) Minutes are kept of essential questions and answers within the interview; the said minutes must be signed by the members of the selection committee. The log should clearly show the day and place of the interview, the name of the committee members, the name of the applicant and the assessment.

(2) The interview extends to the following suitability parameters:

- a) particular specialist knowledge,
- b) special practical professional knowledge or performances outside of the university which are relevant for the studies,
- c) motivation for the studies.

(3) After completion of the interview, the members of the selection committee shall rate the applicant according to the degree of suitability for the selected degree programme on a scale according to § 6a section 5 letter b).

(4) <sup>1</sup>Any applicant who fails to attend the interview without good cause shall be excluded from the further procedure. <sup>2</sup>The selection committee shall schedule a new date for the interview upon request, provided there is good cause. <sup>3</sup>Proof of good cause should be provided and an application for rescheduling a new date should be made promptly to the selection committee, at the latest within two days after the date first scheduled. <sup>4</sup>An unsuccessful applicant is entitled to participate again in the next possible selection procedure.

(5) <sup>1</sup>An earlier interview may be conducted with students of the University of Kassel and of the University of Göttingen, who are enrolled in an undergraduate degree programme that is specialised by this Master's degree programme, as part of the undergraduate degree programme. <sup>2</sup>The earlier interview replaces the interview in the case that the student has applied for this Master's degree programme. <sup>3</sup>The interview may be conducted at the earliest at the start of the sixth subject semester. <sup>4</sup>This earlier interview must be equivalent to the standard interview in terms of form and contents. <sup>5</sup>The provisions laid down in sections 1 to 4, of § 6a section 5 letter b) and § 4 sections 2 to 4 apply accordingly. <sup>6</sup>The earlier interview is considered in place of the standard interview only if it was not conducted earlier than six months before the selection decision and the applicant is one of the persons pre-selected for an interview in accordance with the provisions under § 6a section 4. <sup>7</sup>In the event that this precondition is not satisfied, the applicant is excluded from the further selection procedure in the present round of applications. <sup>8</sup>A notification about the result of the earlier interview is made only under the prerequisite that the applicant has been pre-selected for an interview under § 6a section 4.

## **§ 8 Letter of admission, rejection letter and procedure for subsequent admissions**

(1) <sup>1</sup>Applicants who can be admitted as part of the combination quota receive a letter of admission from the universities in a text form. <sup>2</sup>This letter specifies the deadline within which the applicant should declare in writing whether he or she will accept the university place. <sup>3</sup>If this declaration is not submitted by the deadline and in the correct format, the letter of admission becomes ineffective. <sup>4</sup>This legal consequence should be pointed out in the letter of admission.

(2) <sup>1</sup>Applicants who are not entitled to admission shall receive a letter of rejection in text form, in which the ranking achieved and the ranking of the applicant last admitted are listed. <sup>2</sup>The letter of rejection shall provide information on rights of legal recourse. <sup>3</sup>In the case of authorised applicants, it shall also contain a request that a declaration should be made in writing by a specified deadline as to whether the application for admission shall be held for a procedure for subsequent admissions. <sup>4</sup>If the applicant does not submit this declaration by the deadline or in the correct form, they shall be excluded from the procedure for subsequent admissions. <sup>5</sup>Reference must be made to this legal consequence.

(3) <sup>1</sup>The procedure for subsequent admissions shall be carried out on the basis of the ranking in accordance with § 6a sections 5 and 6. <sup>2</sup>Once the ranking list according to sentence 1 has been fully applied, a ranking list is created on the basis of the results of the Bachelor grade or the grade of an equivalent proof of academic qualification and the procedure for subsequent admissions is carried out on the basis of this ranking list. <sup>3</sup>The provisions of the section 1 apply correspondingly.

(4) <sup>1</sup>The selection procedures are completed at the latest on 15.11. for admission to a winter semester. <sup>2</sup>Any university places still available shall be awarded by lot to applicants authorised for admission, subject to informal application. <sup>3</sup>The application period for this starts two weeks before the commencement of the semester for which the admission is intended, and ends with conclusion of the selection procedure. <sup>4</sup>The award of university places by means of a lottery is completed at the latest on 30.11. for admission to a winter semester due to the advanced lecture period.

## **§ 9 Admission to higher semesters**

(1) Free university places in a higher semester with limited admission shall be awarded to applicants in the following sequence:

- a) those who are in the same or a comparable degree programme,

aa) those who are or were enrolled at another German university or at a university in another member state of the European Union or in another signatory state to the Agreement on the European Economic Area,

ab) those who are or were enrolled at a foreign university and possess German nationality or are under the same university admissions laws and regulations as German citizens,

b) those for whom the rejection of admission for personal reasons would mean extraordinary hardship,

c) those who assert other reasons.

(2) Within each one of the three case groups of section 1, the result of the Bachelor's programme examination or an examination equivalent to the Bachelor's programme examination is decisive, thereafter the social, especially family-related and economic reasons that are crucial for the choice of place, and finally the draw in cases that are still identical.

### **§ 9a Quotas**

(1) <sup>1</sup>From the number of admissions to this degree programme, a special quota of 80% shall be formed in advance; this comprises university places to be awarded for the admission of foreign nationals and stateless persons with a recognised educational record who are neither equivalent to Germans by law nor are nationals of another member state of the European Union nor of any other signatory state to the Agreement on the European Economic Area, nor have acquired their Bachelor's degree or an equivalent degree from a German university nor from a university in another member state of the European Union or in another signatory state to the Agreement on the European Economic Area. <sup>2</sup>Applications from foreign nationals and stateless persons as defined under sentence 1 will not be considered in the selection procedure according to § 5.

(2) <sup>1</sup>The selection takes place as defined in the provisions of §§ 1 to 9. <sup>2</sup>Special circumstances that favour a course of studies at a German university may also be considered additionally.

<sup>3</sup>Circumstances of this nature shall be deemed particularly applicable if the applicant

a) provides confirmation of approval for a scholarship from a publicly financed institution,

b) has successfully attended a college at the suggestion of a Lower Saxony university and is preselected for a university place,

c) is a citizen of a developing country,

d) enjoys right of asylum in the Federal Republic of Germany or

e) belongs to a German-speaking minority abroad or is eligible for support on the basis of international treaties or university agreements.

(3) The remaining university places in accordance with this quota are included in the quota for the selection procedure in accordance with § 5.

(4) Deviating from § 3 section 1 sentence 3, the application for admission of applicants who are neither equated by law with Germans nor are nationals of another member state of the European Union, must be submitted to the University of Göttingen, along with the application documents required according to § 3 section 2, by 31.01. (closing date).

#### ***IV. Final provision***

#### **§ 10 Entry into force**

These regulations shall enter into force on the day after being published in the official announcements of the University of Göttingen and in the announcements of the University of Kassel. It applies for the first time to the award procedure for the winter semester 2011/2012. At the same time, the regulations concerning the qualifications for entry and admission to the Master's degree programme "Sustainable International Agriculture" in the version contained in the announcement dated 01.04.2009 (Official Announcements no. 9/2009 p. 701) shall be rendered ineffective.